

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

09/10/12

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MARY MCINTYRE, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS – POLICE CHIEF, KATHY BRADFORD – THE ADVANCE, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, BUDDY COLEMAN – FIRE CHIEF

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: James Joyce

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - Mayor Dixon introduced several guest in attendance at the first meeting being held in the new City Annex Council Chambers. They are Sandy Dixon, Greg Morris, Wendell Dixon, Lillie Turner, and Blake Tillery. He also recognized Deen Mills who introduced four boy scouts who are working on their communication badge.

DVA: - Paula Toole informed the Council on the activities of the DVA.

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on the Toombs Montgomery Chamber activities. He stated that the speck building had been sold and that the Chamber has received numerous inquiries from businesses that are interested in locating in our area. He also mentioned that the Development Authority was negotiating with Tumi Luggage to help increase the size of their presence here by as many as 70 jobs.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD – Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of August. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Phil Best Premier Construction** – Phil Best Jr. addressed the Council and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as the Construction Manager during the building of the new City Annex and also for the Community Center expansion. He stated that he hoped the Council was pleased with the outcome and that if Construction Management services were ever needed in the future that the Council would consider Premier. Mayor Dixon thanked Premier for their dedication and quality work.
2. **McLain Calhoun and Clark** – Tracy Clark gave the Council an update on the now completed 2011 City audit. He noted that his firm was able to give their unqualified opinion, and that no substantial deficiencies were found. He did mention several suggested improvements that he had gone over with Mr. Bedingfield and was informed that they had been implemented. The Council also received the final audit with his presentation.
3. **Forest Glen Apartments Resolution** – Mr. Torrance told the Council that the Attorneys for the Forest Glen Apartments had failed to get the correct language in the Resolution signed on August 8, 2011. The corrected Resolution is attached and needs to be approved. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

4. **Removal Bids of the old Police Department** - Mr. Torrance presented to the Council the bids that had been received for the demolition and removal of the old Police Station. The apparent low bidder is McLendon Enterprises at \$22,000 with 3 days to remove the building. The next bid was Forrest Construction at \$22,000 but requiring up to 14 days to remove the building. Mr. Torrance is recommending the Council accept the bid from McLendon. A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the bid by McLendon Enterprises. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.
5. **2012 Millage Rate** - Mr. Torrance presented the Council with several scenarios concerning the 2012 millage rate. The rollback rate would again be 4.50 mills in Vidalia Toombs and 3.549 in Vidalia Montgomery. City Manager Torrance explained that we would need to advertise the current rate in the paper and finalize it at a called meeting in September. He then stated that if the Council chooses one of the alternate proposals that would be an increase over the roll back rate, then we would need to have three separate advertised meetings before we could approve the new millage rate.
6. **Revolving Loan Committee** - Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the Revolving Loan Committee had met and had approved a loan in the amount of \$100,000.00 to US Energy Sciences of Vidalia. The term is at 3% interest for 84 months. The loan application meets all revolving loan requirements and has been approved by the Committee. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the loan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
7. **Vidalia Housing Authority** - Josh Beck has submitted a request from his board to have Hughes Threlkeld re-appointed to the Vidalia Housing Authority Board of directors. This would be for a 5 year term expiring in 2017. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Dixon set a called Council meeting, to set the millage rate for 2012, on September 25, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented to the Council with a maintenance agreement from Top Coat Roofing that would include a biannual inspection for \$540.00 a year. The cost would include minor repairs such as caulking and some new flashings. Any extensive repair would be at an additional cost, but would be fully explained and not done without the Council's approval. Calls to repair leaks would be billed at the standard rate. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the contract with Top Coat Roofing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented to the Council a plan to remove the bathrooms from the Flossie Hayes Park and use the area to extend the covered picnic pavilion. The low bidder was Nicky Ray at \$5375.00. Mr. Torrance explained that the Recreation Department had some unused funds left in the SPLOST call that would cover the cost. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the contract with Nicky Ray. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Robbie Akins and Jeff West presented to the Council an award for the 2012 Water Plant of the Year. This award was presented by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. Mayor Dixon accepted the award and thanked ESG for their hard work.

Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to adjourn from executive session and enter regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Frost to deny the Claim of Angela Jackson to repair her car. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business Councilman Frost made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

William E Bedingfield, City Clerk